



Drama at Key Stage 3

Drama at KS3 is a compulsory subject for all students until the end of Year 8. They can then choose to drop the subject. Drama is taught for one hour a week.

They are assessed on group skills, performing and evaluating work. Using team building work helps build the confidence of the pupils so that they can work positively in a group.

- Focus, control, movement and gesture through warm-ups and whole group work
- Improvisation – pupils make up their own storylines
- Script work – different styles of Drama are explored
- Physical theatre – use of movement to tell a story
- Costumes, props, music, sound effects and lighting are gradually introduced for students to enhance their work
- Thorough written evaluations of their own and others work, using GCSE questions
- Use of IT to research as well as to compose elements that can be used in the Drama work

Year 7

Drama is introduced to Year 7 in the first term by teaching them the basic skills they need to structure and act in their own plays, as well as interpret scripts and stories. Firstly mime, still images and thought tracking are covered, before tackling improvisation. Taking scenarios like 'at the bus stop'; students can begin to understand simple plot structure. Building tension and slapstick are explored through familiar fairy tales that allow students to understand further how a plot can be developed. This is then followed in the spring term by looking at the style of melodrama and stock characters. Students begin to use costume and props to enhance their work. In the summer term students start to look at different styles of Drama; firstly documentary theatre, using real life stories from people who lived in 1912. They learn how to make a Drama scene authentic, whilst teaching the audience about a certain time period.

Year 8

Students are encouraged to build their theatre skills further. By looking at the theatre practitioner Brecht, students understand how to use stereotypes to challenge audience perceptions and create comedy. A variety of Brecht techniques are used to help them shape their own stories. This is then followed by studying the text 'Teachers' by John Godber – a playwright who uses Brecht techniques.

After Christmas the students continue to use Brecht techniques to devise their own piece of theatre on the theme of 'memories'. This is approached in the same way that a GCSE group

would work – allowing students to develop their own ideas and experience independent learning.

In the summer term students learn how to use minimalism in theatre and use non-naturalistic techniques inspired by theatre companies such as Frantic Assembly, and movement director, Aline David. The term is finished off by looking at *The Tempest* and working in groups on ideas as to how the scenes can be staged in different ways.

Year 9

In the first term students re-visit slapstick and melodrama whilst exploring the text 'The 39 Steps'. They then work on their own scripts to help develop key skills, and are challenged to produce work at GCSE standard.

After Christmas, students explore the Shakespeare text *Macbeth*. Use of costumes, props and lighting are encouraged in order to bring the scenes alive in an imaginative way. This links with work done in English on the text and helps develop a more in depth understanding of the characters and storyline.

In the summer term, students devise their own pieces of theatre based on the theme of 'power'. This is run like a GCSE project, to help them fully prepare to work at this level.

Extra Curricular

Drama clubs for KS3 run at lunch time. This allows pupils to continue to build on their Drama skills, gain confidence and participate in concerts and shows. A variety of activities have taken place through the clubs EG street theatre, community projects and the Carlisle Drama festival. Links with the Music department allow the students to participate in the annual musical production and work with different year groups.